

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 03366 080348Z

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 L-03 H-01 PRS-01
COME-00 AID-05 /068 W
-----080353Z 066046 /14

P R 080308Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6818

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 3366

PASS TREASURY FOR SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, RP

SUBJECT: FINANCE SECRETARY VIRATA SEEKS MEETING WITH SEC.
BLUMENTHAL

1. PHILIPPINE SECRETARY OF FINANCE CEASAR VIRATA, IN HIS
CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF IMF/IBRD,
IS SEEKING MEETING WITH TREASURY SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL.
VIRATA TELLS ME HE HAS PROPOSED THROUGH PHILIPPINE EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF IMF THAT HE MEET WITH BLUMENTHAL IN WASHINGTON
ANYTIME IN PERIOD MARCH 23, 24 OR 25. HE HAS AS YET
RECEIVED NO REPLY.

2. VIRATA SAYS HE PARTICULARLY WISHES TO CONSULT WITH
BLUMENTHAL CONCERNING PROBLEMS HE SENSES WITH FRENCH
GOVERNMENT. HE SAYS THAT FRANCE IS SO JEALOUS OF ITS ROLE
AS SPONSOR AND HOST FOR CIEC CONFERENCE IN PARIS THAT IT
SEEKS TO BLOCK ALL OTHER ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT DETRACT OR
DISTRACT FROM ACHIEVEMENTS OF THAT CONFERENCE. SINCE
VIRATA IS BEARISH ABOUT PROBABLE OUTCOME OF PARIS MEETINGS,
HE FEELS IBRD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OUGHT TO TAKE ITS
OWN INITIATIVES, INDEPENDENT OF PARIS TALKS. MATTER
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ASSUMES SOME URGENCY BECAUSE OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING SCHEDULE IN WASHINGTON APRIL 17.

3. FOR SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL: VIRATA IS COMPETENT,
CONSCIENTIOUS PROFESSIONAL WHO REPRESENTS BEST POSSIBLE
PRAGMATIC THINKING AMONG THIRD WORLD FINANCIAL SPOKESMEN.
ALTHOUGH HE IS DECEPTIVELY SHY AND LOW-KEY IN PERSONAL

ENCOUNTERS, HE HAS A FIRST-RATE MIND AND IS TENACIOUS
NEGOTIATOR. A CLOSE AND CANDID RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM
WOULD BE WELL WORTH WHILE.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: EFIN, RP, US, CIEC, (BLUMENTHAL, W MICHAEL), (VIRATA, CEASAR)
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